Electrification of railway traction

1878. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are giving boost to electrification of railway traction in view of diesel shortage; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Delhi-Madras, Delhi-Bangalore and further Southern capitals like Hyderabad, Thiruvanthipuram as well as Western, Eastern and Northern State capitals would be linked with Delhi through electrified tracks,

(c) what is the initial cost for electrification; and

(d) whether the electricity boards are restraining electrification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. Electrification of track on Indian Railways is continuous process and electrification proposals are processed on techno-economic merits & operational requirements on section by section basis.

(b) There is, at present, no proposal to link Delhi with the state capitals through electrified net-work as such.

However, as a part of electrification work executed so far Delhi-Madras, Delhi-Howrah & Delhi-Bombay via Western Railway have already been electrified. Works are in progress to complete electrification of Bombay-Howrah via Nagpur, Delhi-Bombay via Central Railway, as well as Jolarpettai-Bangalore and Kanipet - Secunderabad - Hyderabad/Sanatnagar Sections.

(c) Approximately Rs. 40 lakhs per route kilometre on double line seciton including connected S&T works.

(d) No, Sir.

Setting up of Agricultural Export Council

1879. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand for setting up of Agricultural Export Council;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to set up the Agricultural Export Council, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Goevrnment are contemplating export of sugar to boost up sugarcane production and earn foreign exchange;

(d) whether it is a fact that India's fish catching and export is much less as compared to small country like Thailand; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would consider export of HPS groundnut whereby Government can import double the edible oils from the foreign exchange earned from HPS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply at (a) above:

(c) Yes, Sir. The export of sugar is allowed under Open General Licence No. 3 subject to provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958.

(d) India's fish catching is not less as compared to Thailand. India's fish export is less than that of Thailand. The main reason is that Thailand liberally imports fish and fish products and increases export of canned tuna fish to various developed countries. India's major export is however shrimps and shrimp products.

(e) The export of HPS groundnut is under Open General Licence. The import